THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the Planning Commission the recent quinquennial round of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment reveals that employment opportunities in rural areas, on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis, increased from 241.04 million in 1993-94 to 250.89 million in 1999-2000. However, the higher rate of economic growth may not necessarily result in same rate of increase in employment generation as it depends upon a number of other factors also.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing employment generation programmes which includes the self-employment programme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). In order to supplement the efforts of providing wage-employment in the rural areas, a National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in 150 most backward districts of the coutnry in 2004-05. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been launched in 200 identified districts of the country in the first phase. These 200 districts include 150 districts where NFFWP was being implemented and now the SGRY and NFFWP will be merged under NREGA in these 200 districts. In addition to the above, the Ministry also implements Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for providing rural connectivity and area development programmes on watershed basis which also generate employment in the rural areas.

Water Quality Survey

999. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Water Quality Survey and as reported by the States nearly 2.2 lakh rural habitations are affected with different water quality problems as on March, 2004, and in Andhra Pradesh alone more than 4,000 habitations are affected due to fluoride, salinity, Arsenic, etc.;

(b) what technical and scientific assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is provided by the Union Government to States so as to maintain the quality of drinking water; and

(c) what integrated approach Government are suggesting to the States to cover the quality affected habitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) As per the water quality survey conducted by the State Governments, 2,16,968 rural habitations were reported as being affected with different water quality problems like excess fluoride, arsenic, salinity, iron, nitrate, and a combination of these, as on 31st March 2004. Govt, of Andhra Pradesh reported that as on 31/3/2004, 4050 habitations were affected by various quality problems. Out of these 4,050 habitations, 3072 are suffering from excess fluoride, 973 with excess salinity and 5 habitations with excess iron in drinking water.

(b) Rural drinking water is a State subject, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. The following technical and scientific assistance is being rendered to the States to maintain the quality of drinking water in rural areas:—

- Executive Guidelines for setting up of district level water quality testing laboratories were issued in 1990. Services of National Industrial Development Corporation were engaged for assistance States in setting up a laboratory in each district. 100% Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 4 lakh (1 lakh for building and 3 lakh for equipment) to each such laboratory is admissible as per the existing guidelines. Operational Manual, which outlines the procedures for water quality testing was also issued.
- Ground water prospect maps based on hydro-geo-morphology and satellite data have been prepared through National Remote

Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, in 10 States, including Andhra Pradesh which would help in locating drinking water sources and also to select appropriate locations for constructing water harvesting structures.

- A CD on Water Harvesting & Artificial Recharge has been prepared and circulated to all State Governments to facilitate implementation of these projects. A manual on Rain Water Harvesting was released in 1990. Another manual on Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge was also prepared and circulated to all State Governments in 2004-05.
- Guidelines on community based National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme has been circulated to all States in 2006.
- Apart from the above, the Department has been rendering technical assistance to States as and when required.

(c) In order to provide focused attention to tackle the water quality problem, an integrated approach has now been suggested by the Central Government to all States, which includes employment of low cost technology options for covering single village schemes, comprehensive piped water supply schemes, low cost treatment plants, domestic filters, roof-top rain water harvesting, in-situ water conservation, etc.

Rural development programmes

†1000. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study with regard to the benefits exteded to the people through the Rural development programmes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, and

(c) the details of the schemes which create employment?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.